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The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A vehicle powertrain control system comprising:
an electric motor drive system;
a first battery coupled to said electric motor drive system;
an electronically controlled switch coupled to said first battery;
a second battery coupled to said electronically controlled switch, wherein said first and second battery are directly electrically coupled at a common voltage level when said electronically controlled switch is closed; and
wherein said electronically controlled switch applies power from said second battery to supplement said first battery.

2. (original) The vehicle powertrain control system of Claim 1 further comprising a DC/DC converter coupled to said electronically controlled switch, wherein said electronically controlled switch applies power from said DC/DC converter to supplement said second battery.

3. (original) The vehicle powertrain control system of Claim 1 wherein said electric motor drive system comprises an inverter coupled to an induction motor.

4. (original) The vehicle control system of Claim 1 wherein said first battery comprises a lead acid battery.

5. (original) The vehicle control system of Claim 1 wherein said second battery comprises a lead acid battery.

6. (original) The vehicle control system of Claim 1 wherein said electronically controlled switch comprises a silicon conducting rectifier.

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7. (original) The vehicle control system of Claim 1 wherein said electronically controlled switch comprises a transistor.

8. (original) The vehicle control system of Claim 1 wherein said electronically controlled switch comprises an electromechanical relay.

9. (currently amended) A vehicle powertrain control system comprising:
an electric motor drive system;
a first battery coupled to said electric motor drive system;
an electronically controlled switch coupled to said first battery;
a DC/DC converter coupled to said electronically controlled switch; and
wherein said electronically controlled switch applies power from said DC/DC converter to supplement said first battery, and wherein said DC/DC converter, said first battery, and said second battery share a common electrical [node] reference when said electronically controlled switch is closed.

10. (original) The vehicle powertrain control system of Claim 9 further comprising a second battery coupled to said electronically controlled switch, wherein said electronically controlled switch applies power from said second battery to supplement said first battery.

11. (currently amended) A vehicle powertrain control system comprising:
an electric motor drive system;
a first battery coupled to said electric motor drive system;
an electronically controlled switch coupled to said first battery;
a second battery coupled to said electronically controlled switch, wherein said first and second battery [share a common electrical node] operate at substantially the same voltage at a common electrical connection when said electronically controlled switch is closed;
and
wherein said electronically controlled switch applies power from said second battery to supplement said first battery.